

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 00344 161508Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 052816

O R 161455Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5257
INFO AMEMBSSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0344

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IS, LE
SUBJECT: IDF ACTIONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

REF(A) DAO TEL AVIV 161452Z
(B) TEL AVIV 134(EXDIS)
(C) BEIRUT 643

1. WE DRAW ADDRESSEES' ATTENTION TO REF(A) WHICH IS DAO REPORT RE LATEST IDF ACTIONS IN AOUTHERN LEBANON, IT SEEMS TO US THAT PATTERN EMERGING OF CARRYING FIGHT TO FEDEYEEN IN SOUTHERN LEBANON BY CONSTANT GROUND ACTIVITY COULD BECOME DEFACTO ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF SIGNIFICANT AREAS OF SOUTHERN LEBANON. WHEN I DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITHALLON JANUAYR 7 (REF B), HE ADAMANTLY DENIED ISRAELI PLANS TO "INVADE" SOUTHERN LEBANON, NEVERTHELESS, I WONDER IF NON-ISRAELI INTERESTED OBSERVERS WILL BE ABLE TO DISCERN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CUREENT PATTERN OF OPERATIONS AND FLLFLEDGED "INVASION" DESINGED TO SEIZE AND HOLD TERRITORY. TO JUDGE FROM RECENTANNOUNCEMENTS FROM GOI LEADERSHIP, ISRAELIS BELIEVE CURRENT OPERATIONS AE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL AND THEY UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE EVR INTENTION TO CONTINUE ALONG THE SAME LINES FOR AAS LONG AS THEY FEEL NECESSARY.

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2. THIS RAISES REAL QUESTIONS IN OUR MINDS, RE BEIRUT 643(REF C),
IF ISRAELI SUCCESSESS WILL NOT FORCE LEBANESE TO ACCEPT GREATLY
ENHANCED PLA/SA'IQA PRESENCE (I.E., THIRD OPTION) THUS BRINING A
ABOUT EXACTLY SITUATION LEBANESE, ISRAELIS AND U.S. HOPE TO AVOID.
UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO PROBE
ALLON RE SIGNIFICANCE OF RECENT STATEMENTS OF PERES AND GUR AND
INTENSIFICATION OF ACTIVITY ITSELF WHICH STRONGLY SUGGEST PLANS FOR
ALMOST PERMANENT IDF PRESENCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.
KEATING

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